M.r William Congreve

27597

MEMOIRS

OF THE

Life, Writings, and Amours

OF

WILLIAM CONGREVE *Esq;*

Interspersed with

Miscellaneous Essays, Letters, and Characters, Written by Him.

ALSO

Some very Curious Memoirs of Mr. DRYDEN and his FAMILY, with a Character of Him and his Writings, by Mr. CONGREVE.

Compiled from their respective Originals,
By *CHARLES WILSON Esq;*

Poets have an unquestion'd Right to claim,
If not the *Greatest*, the *most Lasting Name.*
CONGREVE.

LONDON:
Printed in the Year M.DCC.XXX.
(Price 5*s.*)

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Mr. CONGREVE's Laſt *Will* and *Teſtament*.

WITH

CHARACTERS

OF HIS

WRITINGS.

BY

Mr. DRYDEN, Sir RICHARD BLACKMORE, Mr. ADDISON, Major PACK, and Mr. POPE.

To which are added, Two Pieces, *viz.*

I. *Of rightly Improving the preſent Time.* An Epiſtle, from Mr. CONGREVE, to the Right Honourable RICHARD Lord Viſcount COBHAM.

II. The GAME of QUADRILLE. An ALLEGORICAL COURT-SATIRE.

The SECOND EDITION.

LONDON:

Printed for E. CURLL next *Will's* Coffee-Houſe, in *Bow-ſtreet, Covent-Garden.* 1730.

Mr. CONGREVE'S

Last Will and Testament.

WITH

CHARACTERS

OF HIS

WRITINGS.

BY

Mr. DRYDEN, Sir RICHARD BLACKMORE,
Mr. ADDISON, Major PACK, and Mr. POPE.

To which are added, Three Pieces, viz.

I. Of Publick Employments. An Epistle,
from Mr. C[illegible] Honourable
Richard [illegible]

II. The GAME of QUADRILLE. An
ALLEGORICAL COURT-SATIRE.

THE SECOND EDITION.

LONDON

Printed for E. CURLL, next St. Dunstan's Coffee-House, in Fleet-Street, Over-Against Fetter-Lane. 1729.

A true COPY *of the Laſt* Will *and* Teſtament *of* William Congreve, *Eſq;*

E' Regiſtro Curiæ Prærogat' Cantuar' Extract'

IN the Name of God, *Amen.* This is the laſt Will of me *William Congreve*, of the Pariſh of St. *Clement-Danes*, *Weſtminſter*, in the County of *Middleſex*, Eſq; made the twenty-ſixth Day of *February*, *Anno Dom.* 1725. And firſt I deſire, and direct, that my Funeral ſhall be privately performed, without the leaſt Oſtentation, and the Place where, I refer to my Executor to appoint.

I give to the ſeveral Perſons herein afternamed, the reſpective Legacies following (that is to ſay)

IMPRIMIS, I give and bequeath to *Anne Jellet*, twenty Pounds a Year during her Life.

Item, To *William Congreve*, Son of Colonel *William Congreve* of *Highgate*, and my Godſon, three hundred Pounds.

To Mrs. *Anne Congreve*, Daughter to my late Kinſman Colonel *Ralph Congreve* of *Clarges-ſtreet*, two hundred Pounds.

To Mrs. *Anne Bracegirdle*, of *Howard-ſtreet*, two hundred Pounds.

To Mrs. *Frances Porter*, fifty Pounds.

Item, To Mrs. *Deborah Rooke*, one hundred Pounds, with all my Linnen and Apparel. For other, leſs Legacies, I leave them as ſpecified in a Codicil, incloſed in the Duplicate of this Will, and left in the Cuſtody of the Dutcheſs of *Marlborough*.

ALL the Reſt and Reſidue of my Eſtate, the ſame conſiſting in perſonal Things only, (not having any Lands, or other real Eſtate) I give and bequeath to the Dutcheſs of *Marlborough*, the now Wife of *Francis* Earl of *Godolphin*, in the County of *Cornwall*; but not ſo as to veſt in him the ſaid Earl of *Godolphin*,

dolphin, the equitable Right and Intereſt of ſuch Reſt and Reſidue, but that the ſame and every part thereof; and the Intereſt, Produce, and Benefit thereof; ſhall and may, at all times, from and after my Deceaſe, be had and received by her the ſaid Dutcheſs, namely, *Henrietta*, Dutcheſs of *Marlborough*, to her ſole and ſeparate Uſe, and wherewith her ſaid Husband, or any after-taken Huſband, of her the ſaid Dutcheſs of *Marlborough*, ſhall not intermeddle, or have any controuling Power over: nor ſhall the ſaid Reſt and Reſidue, or the Intereſt and Produce thereof, be liable to the Debts and Incumbrances of the ſaid Earl of *Godolphin*, or of any after-taken Husband, of her the ſaid Dutcheſs of *Marlborough*, in any wiſe; but ſhall be had and received, iſſued and paid, as ſhe the ſaid Dutcheſs of *Marlborough*, ſhall by writing under her Hand, from time to time direct and appoint; and her own Acquittance ſhall be a ſufficient Diſcharge for all, or any Part of the Eſtate ſo given to her as aforeſaid. And in Confidence of the Honeſty and Juſtice of him the ſaid *Francis* Earl of *Godolphin*, I do hereby conſtitute and appoint him, the ſole Executor of this my Will, in Truſt for his ſaid Wife, as aforeſaid. In Witneſs whereof, I have hereunto ſubſcribed my Name,

and ſet my Seal, the Day and Year aforeſaid.

William Congreve (*L. S.*)

Signed, ſealed, and declared by the ſaid *William Congreve* the Teſtator, to be his laſt Will, in the Preſence of Us,

TIMO. KIPLIN,

THOMAS SWAN.

N. B. The other *Legacies* referred to, in the *Duplicate* of this *Will*, were as follow.

Item, To Mrs. *Anne Congreve*, her Mother, and to Colonel *William Congreve* of *Highgate*, each, twenty Pounds.

Item, To *Peter Walter*, Eſq; of St. *Margaret Weſtminſter*, twenty Pounds.

Item, To *Richard* Lord Viſcount *Cobham*, and *Richard* Lord Viſcount *Shannon*, twenty Pounds each.

Item, To *Charles Mein*, Eſq; and Mr. *Edward Porter*, and Mr. *Joſhua White*, twelve Pounds each.

Item,

Item, To her Grace *Henrietta* Dutchess of *Newcastle*, I give and bequeath the Dutchess of *Marlborough*'s Picture, by *Kneller*.

Item, To the Lady *Mary Godolphin*, youngest Daughter to the Dutchess of *Marlborough*, I give and bequeath her Mother's Picture enamelled, in Miniature, together with my white Brilliant Diamond Ring.

Item, To Col. *Charles Churchill*, twenty Pounds, together with my Gold-headed Cane.

Item, To all and each of my Domestick Servants, a Year's Wages, and proper Mourning.

Item, To the Poor of the Parish, ten Pounds.

Attested by WILL. HUMPSTONE.
GEORGE THORPE.
JONATHAN WHITE.

The CODICIL.

WHereas I *William Congreve*, did by my laſt Will and Teſtament, bearing Date the ſixth Day of *February* 1725, affix a Schedule of Legacies, written in my own Hand, over a blank Space left for that purpoſe in the ſaid Will; I do hereby revoke and annul thoſe Legacies, excepting ſuch as are bequeathed to Perſons related to me, and bearing my own Hand; as alſo what is therein bequeathed to Mrs. *Anne Jellet*, and Mrs. *Anne Bracegirdle*; which ſaid Legacies, I do hereby confirm, and do hereby revoke and annul all other Legacies therein mentioned, or in the Counter-part of the ſaid Will, more at large ſet down; which Counter-part is by me left in Cuſtody of her Grace, *Henrietta*, Dutcheſs of *Marlborough*, my ſole Executrix, as is ſpecified in the ſaid Will and Counter-part thereof. Be it underſtood, that my Intention is by this Writing to revoke thoſe Legacies, not herein confirmed as above-mentioned, in ſuch manner only as to leave them abſolutely in the Power and Determination of the above-named *Henrietta* Dutcheſs of *Marlborough*, my ſole Executrix, either to pay, or refuſe to pay to them, to take from them, or add to them,

as

as ſhe ſhall judge the Perſons therein named, eſpecially my Domeſtick Servants, therein mentioned, or not mentioned, may have merited of me.

William Congreve. (*L. S.*)

Signed and ſealed, in preſence of,

JOSEPH LEE,

WILL. HUMPSTONE.

PROBATUM Londini *cum quatuor Codicillis ſive ſchedulis, teſtamentis annex' tertio Die Menſis* Februarij 1728. *Coram ven'li viro* Georgio Paul, *legum Doctore ſurrog'* &c. *Jurato prænobilis, & hon'li viri* Franciſci *Comitiſſ de* Godolphin, *Extris unicæ*, &c. *Cui*, &c. *De bene & Jurat. Lata prius ſententia definitiva pro valore, & validitate dicti teſtamenti prout, ex actis curiæ liquet.*

LINTHWAITE FARRANT,

Regiſtrar: Deputat: Aſſumpt.

Mr.

Mr. CONGREVE died about five o'Clock, on *Sunday* Morning, *January* the 19th, 1728-9. at his Houſe in *Surrey-ſtreet* in the *Strand*, in the 57th Year of his Age; and on the *Sunday* following, *January* 26th, his Corps lay in State in the *Jeruſalem* Chamber; from whence, the ſame Evening, between the Hours of Nine and Ten, it was carried, with great Decency and Solemnity, into King HENRY the VIIth's Chapel in *Weſtminſter-Abbey*, and interred near the late Earl of *Godolphin*. The PALL was ſupported by, I. The Duke of *Bridgewater*. II. Earl of *Godolphin*. III. Lord *Cobham*. IV. Lord *Wilmington*. V. The Honourable *George Berkeley*, Eſq; VI. Brigadier-General *Churchill*. And Colonel *Congreve* followed the Corps as Chief Mourner.

The following EPISTLE, *Of rightly Improving the preſent Time*, written to Lord *Cobham*, is here printed from Mr. *Congreve*'s Original Manuſcript; with which I was obliged by a Perſon of the firſt Rank.

To

To the Right Honourable the

Lord Viſcount COBHAM.

Of Improving the preſent Time.

SINCEREST Critic of my Proſe, or Rhime,
Tell how thy pleaſing STOWE *employs thy Time.
Say, COBHAM, what amuſes thy Retreat?
Or Stratagems of War, or Schemes of State?
Doſt thou recall to Mind with Joy, or Grief,
Great *MARLBRO's* Actions? That immortal *Chief*,
Whoſe ſlighteſt Trophy rais'd in each Campaign,
More than ſuffic'd to ſignalize a Reign?

* The Name of his Lordſhip's Seat in *Buckinghamſhire*.

Does

Does thy Remembrance riſing, warm thy Heart,
With Glory paſt, where Thou thyſelf hadſt Part;
Or doſt thou grieve indignant, now to ſee,
The fruitleſs End of all thy Victory?
To ſee th'Audacious Foe, ſo late ſubdu'd,
Diſpute thoſe Terms for which ſo long they ſu'd,
As if BRITANNIA now were ſunk ſo low,
To beg that PEACE ſhe wonted to beſtow?
Be far that Guilt! be never known that Shame!
That ENGLAND ſhou'd retract her *rightful Claim*,
Or ceaſing to be dreaded and ador'd,
Stain with her Pen the Luſtre of her Sword.
Or doſt thou give the Winds a-far to blow,
Each vexing-Thought, and Heart-devouring Woe,
And fix thy Mind alone on rural Scenes,
To turn the level'd Lawns to liquid Plains,
To raiſe the creeping Rills from humble Beds,
And force the latent Springs to lift their Heads,
On watry Columns, Capitals to rear,
That mix their flowing Curls with upper Air?
Or doſt Thou, weary grown, theſe Works neglect,
No Temples, Statues, Obelisks erect,
But catch the morning Breeze from fragrant Meads,
Or ſhun the Noon-tide Ray in wholeſome Shades?

Or

Or ſlowly walk along the mazy Wood,
To meditate on all that's wiſe and good?
For Nature bountiful, in Thee has join'd,
A Perſon pleaſing, with a worthy Mind;
Not given the Form alone, but Means, and Art,
To draw the Eye, or to allure the Heart.
Poor were the Praiſe in Fortune to excel,
Yet want the Way to uſe that Fortune well.
While thus adorn'd, while thus with Virtue crown'd,
At Home, in Peace; Abroad, in Arms renown'd;
Graceful in Form, and winning in Addreſs,
While well you think what aptly you expreſs,
With Health, with Honour, with a fair Eſtate,
A Table free, and elegantly neat:
What can be added more to mortal Bliſs?
What can he want, that ſtands poſſeſt of This?
What can the fondeſt wiſhing Mother more,
Of Heaven attentive for her Son implore?
And yet a *Happineſs* remains *unknown*,
Or to *Philoſophy* reveal'd *alone*;
A *Precept*, which unpractis'd renders vain
Thy flowing Hopes, and Pleaſure turns to Pain.

Shou'd

Shou'd Hope and Fear thy Heart alternate tear,
Or Love, or Hate, or Rage, or anxious Care,
Whatever Paſſions may thy Mind infeſt,
(Where is that Mind which Paſſions ne'er moleſt?)
Amidſt the Pangs of ſuch inteſtine Strife,
Still *think the* PRESENT DAY, *the* LAST *of* LIFE;
Defer not till *To-Morrow* to be *Wiſe*,
To-Morrow's SUN, to *Thee* may never *riſe*.
Or ſhou'd *To-Morrow* chance to cheer thy *Sight*,
With her enliv'ning and unlook'd-for *Light*,
How grateful will appear her *dawning Rays!*
As Favours unexpected doubly pleaſe.
Who thus can think, and who ſuch Thoughts purſues,
Content may keep his Life, or calmly loſe:
All Proofs of this Thou may'ſt thyſelf receive,
When Leiſure from Affairs will give thee Leave.
Come ſee thy Friend retir'd, without Regret,
Forgetting Care, or ſtriving to forget;
In eaſy Contemplation ſoothing Time
With Morals much, and now and then with Rhime;
Not ſo robuſt in Body, as in Mind,
And always undejected, tho' declin'd:
Not wond'ring at the World's new wicked Ways,
Compar'd with thoſe of our Fore-fathers Days,

For

For Virtue now is neither more or leſs,
And Vice is only vary'd in the Dreſs:
Believe it, *Men* have ever been the *ſame*,
And *Ovid's* GOLDEN AGE is but a *Dream*.

WILLIAM CONGREVE.

THE

THE TRUE

COPY

OF AN

AFFIDAVIT,

Made before one of His Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace for the City of *Weſtminſter*.

THAT *four* LADIES, whom the Deponent does not care to name, repair nightly to a certain convenient Place, near St. *James's*, to meet their GALLANTS of the firſt Rank; whom your Deponent will not name, but ſo far deſcribe them, that *two* of them are *ſallow*, and *two* of the *ruddy* Complexion; and that he verily believes they were moſt abominably painted.

The

The LADIES when they begin their Gambols, call their GALLANTS by the fond Nicknames of *Hercules*, *Cupid*, *Pit*, and the *Gardiner*. After a plentiful Service of the moſt coſtly Fare, they begin their *Tricks*, which they play like the *Tumblers* in *Bartholomew-Fair* upon a Carpet, *ſtrip is the Word*; nay, your Deponent has known them ſtrip a Gentleman who came accidentally into the Houſe. At *firſt*, they begin pretty courtly, at leaſt in their Expreſſions, as, *Madam, by your leave*, or ſo; which the LADIES are ſo good as *ſeldom to deny*. Afterwards, it is ſhameful to deſcribe the *Tricks* that are played by this *lewd Pack*. By *an eſtabliſhed Rule*, each *Lady* has the Choice of her *Gallant* in her *Turn*, and ſome have been known ſo unreaſonable, after they have had *Three*, to call for a *Fourth*. Your Deponent has ſeen a *Lady* on her *Back*, a *Man* o'Top of *her*, and a *Lady* o'Top of *him*; and he avers, it has been known, that a *Court Valet* has *ſtript them all*. Sometimes they are thrown on their *Backs*, ſometimes on their *Bellies*, now higgledy piggledy, and anon, they are *all* o'Top of *one another*; and if *any one* is call'ed upon, they are obliged *to ſhow* ALL. Of the ſame Nature is their Diſcourſe; your Deponent has often over-heard them talking of *A—es*, with the ſame Familiarity as their *Faces*; *I have a Black* one, ſays one, and named the

Thing directly; *mine is better than yours*, ſays the other, and names her *Thing*; *Muſt I be laught at*, ſays a Third, *becauſe I have a Red one*. There is *one monſtrous Thing* that your Deponent is almoſt aſhamed to mention; after *Six* bouts, a *Lady* has asked *if they could do no more*; nay, a certain *Lady* has been known to play all the *Tricks over* by *herſelf*. Your Deponent likewiſe avers, that he has full Proof, after the LADIES have been tired with their GALLANTS, they have called for *freſh ones*: In ſhort, the aforeſaid LADIES, have not only *ſpent their Pin-Money, but their Husband's Eſtates*, upon *Hercules*, *Cupid*, *Pit*, and the *Gardiner*, and when they want more Money, they commonly *pawn* their *Jewels*, &c.

Weſtminſter ſſ.
Jurat coram me,
T. T.

P. S. The above *Information* is a faithful Deſcription of the GAME of QUADRILLE, not to be *Literally*, but *Allegorically* underſtood.

THO. WOOLSTON.

TESTI-

TESTIMONIES.

IN *easy Dialogue* is FLETCHER's Praise:
He *mov'd* the *Soul*, but had not Power to *raise*.
Great JOHNSON did by *Strength of Judgment* please,
Yet doubling FLETCHER's *Force*, he wants his *Ease*.
In diff'ring Talents, *Both* adorn'd their Age;
One for the *Study*, t'other for the *Stage*.
But *Both* to CONGREVE justly shall submit,
ONE match'd in *Judgment*, BOTH o'er-match'd in *Wit*.
In *Him* all Beauties of this Age we see;
ETHEREGE's *Courtship*, SOUTHERN's *Purity*;
The *Satire*, *Wit*, and *Strength*, of Manly
WYCHERLEY †.

† See Mr. *Dryden*'s Verses, to Mr. *Congreve*, prefixed to the DOUBLE DEALER.

The OLD BATCHELOR*.

IN the Character which gives Name to this Play, there is excellently represented the Reluctance of a battered Debauchee to come into the Trammels of Order and Decency; He neither Languishes, nor Burns, but Frets for Love. The Gentlemen of more regular Behaviour, are drawn with much Spirit and Wit; and the *Drama* introduced by the Dialogue of the first Scene, with uncommon, yet natural Conversation.

The Part of *Fondlewife* is a lively Image of the unseasonable Fondness of Age and Impotence.

* *See*, The TATLER, N° 9. Written by Mr. ADDISON.

The MOURNING BRIDE.*

THIS *Poem* has received, and in my Opinion, very juſtly, univerſal Applauſe; being looked on as the moſt perfect *Tragedy* that has been wrote in this Age. The *Fable*, as far as I can judge at firſt Sight, is a very artful and maſterly Contrivance; the *Characters* are well choſen and well delineated; that of ZARA is admirable. The *Paſſions* are well touched, and skilfully wrought up. The *Diction*, proper, clear, beautiful, noble, and diverſified agreeably to the Variety of the Subject. *Vice*, as it ought to be, is puniſhed; and *Oppreſſed Innocence* at laſt rewarded. *Nature* appears very happily imitated (excepting one or two doubtful Inſtances) thro' the whole Piece; in which there are no immodeſt Images or Expreſſions; no wild unnatural Rants, but (ſome Exceptions being allowed) all Things are chaſte, juſt, and decent.

This

* Sir *Richard Blackmore's* Preface to *Prince* ARTHUR, Fol. 1697.

This *Tragedy*, as I ſaid before, has mightily obtained, and that without the unnatural and fooliſh Mixture of *Farce* and *Buffoonery*; without ſo much as a *Song*, or a *Dance*, to make it more agreeable. By this it appears, that, as a ſufficient Genius can recommend itſelf, and furniſh out abundant Matter of Pleaſure and Admiration, without the paultry Helps above named; ſo likewiſe, that the Taſte of the Nation is not ſo far depraved, but that a regular and chaſte Play will not only be forgiven, but highly applauded.

CONGREVE, of all the Moderns, ſeems to me,
To have the righteſt Turn for *Comedy*.

In all his Plays there is a great deal of *lively* and *uncommon Humour*, and ſuch as yet, for the moſt Part, is a *Picture* of *true Life*. Beſides, he hath raiſed the Vein of *Ridicule*, and made the STAGE, which had been too much proſtituted to the Mob, *edifying* to Perſons of the firſt Condition. And as his *Fable* is *Diverting*, ſo it is wrought according to the *ſtricteſt Rules* *.

* See, *Major* PACK's *Eſſay on Study*, &c. in his *Miſcellanies*; printed for *E. Curll*, pag. 100.

INstead of endeavouring to raiſe a vain Monument to myſelf, let me leave behind me a Memorial of my Friendſhip with one of the moſt valuable Men, as well as fineſt Writers of my Age and Country: One who has tried, and knows by his own Experience, how hard an Undertaking it is to do juſtice to HOMER; and one, who (I am ſure) ſincerely rejoices with me at the Period of my Labours. To him therefore, having brought this long Work to a Concluſion, I deſire to *Dedicate* it; and to have the Honour and Satisfaction of placing together, in this manner, the Names of Mr. CONGREVE, and of

A. POPE. †

March 25, 1720.

† See Mr. POPE's Poſtſcript to his Tranſlation of the *Iliad* of *Homer*.

IN-

COPY

OF THE

Laſt Will and Teſtament of *William Congreve*, Eſq;

E Regiſtro Curiæ Prærogat. Cantuar. Extract.

In the Name of God, *Amen.*

THIS is the laſt Will of me *William Congreve*, of the Pariſh of St. *Clement-Danes*, *Weſtminſter*, in the County of *Middleſex*, Eſq; made

the twenty-ſixth Day of *February, Anno Dom.* 1725; And firſt I deſire, and direct, that my Funeral ſhall be privately performed, without the leaſt Oſtentation, and the Place where, I refer to my Executor to appoint.

I give to the ſeveral Perſons hereinafter named, the reſpective Legacies following (that is to ſay) To * * * * * * * * * * my Intention is, that the following Legacies be given to the reſpective Perſons herein named, as if they were inſerted in the blank Space left in this Will for that purpoſe.

IMPRIMIS, I give and bequeath to *Anne Fellet*, twenty Pounds a Year during her Life.

Item,

* *Sic Orig.*

Item, To *William Congreve*, Son of Colonel *William Congreve* of *Highgate*, and my Godſon, three hundred Pounds.

To Mrs. *Anne Congreve*, Daughter to my late Kinſman Colonel *Ralph Congreve* of *Clarges-ſtreet*, two hundred Pounds.

To Mrs. *Anne Bracegirdle*, of *Howard-ſtreet*, two hundred Pounds.

To Mrs. *Francis Porter*, fifty Pounds,

Item, To Mrs. *Deborah Rooke*, one hundred Pounds, with all my Linnen and Apparel; for other leſs Legacies, I leave them as ſpecified in a Codicil incloſed in the Duplicate of this Will, and left in the Cuſtody of the Dutcheſs of *Marlborough* * * * * * * * *

* *Sic Orig*

ALL the Reſt and Reſidue of my Eſtate, the ſame conſiſting in perſonal Things only (not having any Lands, or other real Eſtate) I give and bequeath to the Dutcheſs of *Marlborough*, the now Wife of *Francis* Earl of *Godolphin* in the County of *Cornwall*; but not ſo as to veſt in him the ſaid Earl of *Godolphin*, the equitable Right and Intereſt of ſuch Reſt and Reſidue, but that the ſame and every Part thereof; and the Intereſt, Produce, and Benefit thereof; ſhall and may, at all times, from and after my Deceaſe, be had and received by her the ſaid Dutcheſs, namely, *Henrietta*, Dutcheſs of *Marlborough*, to her ſole and ſeparate Uſe, and wherewith her ſaid Husband, or any after-taken Huſband, of her the ſaid Dutcheſs of *Marlborough*, ſhall not intermeddle, or have

any

any controuling Power over, nor ſhall the ſaid Reſt and Reſidue, or the Intereſt and Produce thereof, be liable to the Debts and Incumbrances of the ſaid Earl of *Godolphin*, or of any after-taken Husband, of her the ſaid Dutcheſs of *Marlborough*, in any wiſe; but ſhall be had and received, iſſued and paid, as ſhe the ſaid Dutcheſs of *Marlborough*, ſhall by writing under her Hand, from time to time direct and appoint; and her own Acquittance ſhall be a ſufficient diſcharge for all, or any Part of the Eſtate ſo given to her as aforeſaid. And in Confidence of the Honeſty and Juſtice of him the ſaid *Francis* Earl of *Godolphin*, I do hereby conſtitute and appoint him, the ſole Executor of this my Will, in Truſt, for his ſaid Wife, as aforeſaid.

I

In Witneſs whereof, I have hereunto ſubſcribed my Name, and ſet my Seal, the Day and Year aforeſaid. *Wil.*

William Congreve (*L. S.*)

Signed, ſealed, and declared by the, ſaid *William Congreve* Teſtator, to be his laſt Will, in the Preſence of Us,

TIMO. KIPLIN,

THOMAS SWAN.

THE

THE

Duplicate WILL and CODICIL.

In the Name of God, *Amen.*

THIS is the laſt Will of me *William Congreve*, of the Pariſh of St. *Clement-Danes*, *Weſtminſter*, in the County of *Middleſex*, Eſq; made the twenty-ſixth of *February*, *Anno Dom.* 1725. And firſt I deſire and direct, that my Funeral ſhall be privately performed without the leaſt Oſtentation, and the Place where, I refer to my Executor to appoint. I give to the ſeveral Perſons herein after-named, the reſpective Legacies following (that is to ſay) To * * * * * * * * * * * Le-

* *Sic Orig.*

Legacies intended to be inſerted in the blank Space of this Will, and which I deſire may be paid, tho' any Thing ſhould prevent my inſerting them with my own Hand, in Manner as I have filled up the other Blanks in the ſame.

IMPRIMIS, To *Anne Jellet*, twenty Pounds a Year for her Life.

Item, To my Godſon *William Congreve*, Son of Colonel *William Congreve* of *Highgate*, three hundred Pounds.

Item, To *Anne Congreve*, Daughter of the late Colonel *Ralph Congreve* of *Clarges-ſtreet*, two hundred Pounds.

* * * * * * *

Item,

Item, To Mrs. *Anne Congreve*, Her Mother, and to Colonel *William Congreve* of *Highgate*, each twenty Pounds.

Item, To Mrs. *Anne Bracegirdle* of *Howard-ſtreet*, two hundred Pounds.

Item, To Mrs. *Deborah Rook*, one hundred Pounds, and all my wearing Apparel and Linnen of all Sorts.

Item, To Mrs. *Francis Porter*, fifty Pounds.

Item, To *Peter Walter*, Eſq; of St. *Margaret Weſtminſter*, twenty Pounds.

Item, To *Richard* Lord Viſcount *Cobham*, and *Richard* Lord Viſcount *Shannon*, twenty Pounds each.

Item, To *Charles Mein*, Eſq; and Mr.

Edward Porter, and Mr. *Joſhua White*, twelve Pounds each.

Item, To her Grace *Henrietta* Dutcheſs of *Newcaſtle*, I give and bequeath the Dutcheſs of *Marlborough*'s Picture, by *Kneller*.

Item, To the Lady *Mary Godolphin*, youngeſt Daughter to the Dutcheſs of *Marlborough*, I give and bequeath her Mother's Picture Enamelled, in Miniature, together with my white Brilliant Diamond Ring.

Item, To Colonel *Charles Churchill*, twenty Pounds, together with my Gold-headed Cane.

Item, To all and each of my Domeſtick Servants, a Year's Wages, and proper Mourning.

Item,

Item, To the Poor of the Pariſh, ten Pounds.

ALL the Reſt and Reſidue of my Eſtate, the ſame conſiſting in perſonal Things only (not having any Lands, or other real Eſtate) I give and bequeath to *Henrietta*, Dutcheſs of *Marlborough*, the now Wife of *Francis* Earl of *Godolphin* in the County of *Cornwall*; but not ſo as to veſt in him the ſaid Earl of *Godolphin*, the equitable Right and Intereſt of ſuch Reſt and Reſidue, but that the ſame and every Part thereof; and the Intereſt, Produce, and Benefit thereof; ſhall and may, at all times, from and after my Deceaſe, be had and received by her the ſaid Dutcheſs of *Marlborough*, to her ſole and ſeparate Uſe, and wherewith her ſaid Husband, or any after-

taken Husband, of her the ſaid Dutcheſs of *Marlborough*, ſhall not intermeddle, or have any controuling Power over, nor ſhall the ſaid Reſt and Reſidue, or the Intereſt and Produce thereof, be liable to the Debts and Incumbrances of the ſaid Earl of *Godolphin*, or of any after-taken Husband, of her the ſaid Dutcheſs of *Marlborough*, in any wiſe; but ſhall be had and received, iſſued and paid, as ſhe the ſaid Dutcheſs of *Marlborough*, ſhall by writing under her Hand, from time to time direct and appoint; and her own Acquittance ſhall be a ſufficient Diſcharge for all, or any Part of the Eſtate ſo given to her as aforeſaid. And in Confidence of the Honeſty and Juſtice of him the ſaid *Francis* Earl of *Godolphin*, I do hereby conſtitute and appoint him, the ſole Executor

tor of this my Will in Truſt, for his ſaid Wife as aforeſaid. In Witneſs whereof, I have hereunto ſubſcribed my Name, and ſet my Seal, the Day and Year aforeſaid.

William Congreve, (*L. S.*)

Signed, ſealed, and declared by the, ſaid *William Congreve* the Teſtator, to be his laſt Will, in the Preſence of Us,

WILLIAM HUMPSTONE,

GEORGE THORPE,

JONATHAN WHITE.

WHEREAS

WHEREAS I *William Congreve*, did by my laſt Will and Teſtament, bearing Date the ſixth Day of *February* 1725; affix a Schedule of Legacies, written in my own Hand, over a blank Space left for that Purpoſe in the ſaid Will; I do hereby revoke and annul thoſe Legacies, excepting ſuch as are bequeathed to Perſons related to me, and bearing my own Hand; as alſo what is therein bequeathed to Mrs. *Anne Jellet*, and Mrs. *Anne Bracegirdle*; which ſaid Legacies, I do hereby confirm, and do hereby revoke and annul, all other Legacies therein mentioned, or in the Counter-part of the ſaid Will, more at large ſet down; which Counter-part is by me left in Cuſtody of her Grace, *Henrietta*, Dutcheſs of *Marlborough*, my ſole Executrix, as is ſpecified in the ſaid Will and Counter-

part

part thereof; be it underſtood, that my Intention is by this Writing to revoke thoſe Legacies, not herein confirmed as above-mentioned, in ſuch manner only as to leave them abſolutely in the Power and Determination of the above-named *Henrietta* Dutcheſs of *Marlborough*, my ſole Executrix, either to pay, or refuſe to pay to them, to take from them, or add to them, as ſhe ſhall judge the Perſons therein named, eſpecially my Domeſtick Servants, therein mentioned, or not mentioned, may have merited of me,

William Congreve, (*L. S.*)

Signed and ſealed, in Preſence of,

JOSEPH LEE.

WILLIAM HUMPSTONE.

PRO-

PROBATUM Londini *cum quatuor Codicillis ſive ſchedulis teſtamentis, annex: tertio Die Menſis* Februarij 1728. *Coram venli viro* Georgio Paul, *legum Doctore ſurrog:* &c. *Jurato prenobilis, & honli viri* Franciſci *Comitis: de* Godolphin, *Extris unici,* &c. *Cui,* &c. *De bene & Jurat. Lata prius ſententia definitiva pro valore, & validitate dicti teſtamenti prout, ex actis curiæ liquet.*

LINTHWAITE FARRANT,
Regiſtrar: Deputat: Aſſumpt.

Mr.

Mr. CONGREVE died about five o'Clock, on *Sunday* Morning, *January* the 19th 1728-9, at his Houſe in *Surrey-ſtreet* in the *Strand*, in the 57th Year of his Age; and on the *Sunday* following, *January* 26th, his Corps lay in State in the *Jeruſalem* Chamber; from whence, the ſame Evening, between the Hours of Nine and Ten, it was carried, with great Decency and Solemnity, into King HENRY the VIIth's Chapel in *Weſtminſter-Abbey*, and Interred near the late Earl of *Godolphin*. The PALL was ſupported by, I. the Duke of *Bridgewater*. II. Earl of *Godolphin*. III. Lord *Cobham*. IV. Lord *Wilmington*. V. The Honourable *George Berkeley*, Eſq; VI. Brigadier-General *Churchill*. And Colonel *Congreve* followed the Corps as Chief Mourner.

CHARACTERS OF Mr. *CONGREVE.*

IN *eaſy Dialogue* is FLETCHER's Praiſe:
He mov'd the *Soul*, but had not Power to *raiſe*.
Great JOHNSON did by *Strength of Judgment* pleaſe,
Yet doubling FLETCHER's *Force*, he wants his *Eaſe*:
In diff'ring Talents, *Both* adorn'd their Age;
One for the *Study*, t'other for the *Stage*.
But *Both* to CONGREVE juſtly ſhall ſubmit,
ONE match'd in *Judgment*, BOTH o'er-match'd in *Wit*.
In *Him*, All Beauties of this Age we ſee;
ETHEREGE's *Courtſhip*, SOUTHERN's *Purity*;
The *Satire*, *Wit*, and *Strength*, of manly WYCHERLEY.

DRYDEN.

Mr.

Mr. *Addiſon*'s Character OF THE Old *BATCHELOR.* *

IN the Character which gives Name to this Play, there is excellently repreſented the Reluctance of a battered Debaucheé to come into the Trammels of Order and Decency: He neither languiſhes, nor burns, but frets for Love. The Gentlemen of more regular Behaviour, are drawn with much Spirit and Wit; and the *Drama* introduced by the Dialogue of the firſt Scene, with uncommon, yet natural Converſation. The Part of *Fondlewife* is a lively Image of the unſeaſonable Fondneſs of Age and Impotence.

* *See*, The TATLER, Nº 9.

Sir *Richard Blackmore*'s

CHARACTER

OF THE

Mourning Bride. *

THIS *Poem* has received, and in my Opinion, very juſtly, univerſal Applauſe; being look'd on as the moſt perfect *Tragedy* that has been wrote in this Age. The *Fable*, as far as I can judge at firſt Sight, is a very artful and maſterly Contrivance; the *Characters* are well choſen and well de-

* *See*, His *Preface* to *Prince* ARTHUR, Fol. 1697.

delineated; that of ZARA is admirable. The *Paſſions* are well touch'd, and skilfully wrought up. The *Diction*, proper, clear, beautiful, noble, and diverſified agreeably to the Variety of the Subject. *Vice*, as it ought to be, is puniſh'd; and *oppreſſed-Innocence* at laſt rewarded. *Nature* appears very happily imitated (excepting one or two doubtful Inſtances) thro' the whole Piece; in which there are no immodeſt Images or Expreſſions; no wild unnatural Rants, but (ſome Exceptions being allowed) all Things are chaſte, juſt, and decent.

This *Tragedy*, as I ſaid before, has mightily obtained, and that without the unnatural and fooliſh Mixture of *Force* and *Buffoonery*; without ſo much as a *Song*, or a *Dance*, to make it more

more agreeable. By this it appears, that as a ſufficient Genius can recommend itſelf, and furniſh out abundant Matter of Pleaſure and Admiration, without the paultry Helps above named; ſo likewiſe, that the Taſte of the Nation is not ſo far deprav'd, but that a regular and chaſte Play will not only be forgiven, but highly applauded.

Major *PACK*'s SENTIMENTS IN His *Eſſay* on *Study*.

CONGREVE of all the Moderns, ſeems to me, to have the righteſt Turn for *Comedy*. In all his Plays there is a great deal of *lively* and *uncommon Humour*, and ſuch as yet, for the moſt Part, is a *Picture* of *true Life*. Beſides, he hath raiſed the Vein of *Ridicule*, and made the STAGE, which had been too much proſtituted to the Mob, *edifying* to Perſons of the firſt

firſt Condition. And as his *Fable* is *Diverting*, ſo is it wrought according to the *ſtricteſt Rules*.

The following EPISTLE, *Of rightly improving the preſent Time*, written to Lord *Cobham*, is here printed from a Manuſcript of the Author, with which I was obliged by a Perſon of the firſt Rank: The Public having been notoriouſly abuſed, by a very erroneous Copy, ſurreptitiouſly obtained, by one LEWIS in *Covent-Garden*, and vended under the Cover of A. DODD, and E. NUTT.

VER-

VERSES

To the Right Honourable the

Lord Viſcount *Cobham.*

Of Improving the preſent Time.

SINCEREST Critic of my Proſe, or Rhime,
Tell how thy pleaſing STOWE † employs
thy Time.
Say, COBHAM, what amuſes thy Retreat?
Or Stratagems of War, or Schemes of State?
Doſt thou recal to Mind with Joy, or Grief,
Great *MARLBRO*'s Actions? That immortal
Chief,
Whoſe ſlighteſt Trophy rais'd in each Campaign,
More than ſuffic'd to ſignalize a Reign?

* The Name of his Lordſhip's SEAT in *Buckinghamſhire.*

Does thy Remembrance riſing warm thy Heart,
With Glory paſt, where Thou thy ſelf hadſt Part,
Or doſt thou grieve indignant, now to ſee,
The fruitleſs End of all thy Victory?
To ſee th' Audacious Foe, ſo late ſubdu'd,
Diſpute thoſe Terms for which ſo long they ſu'd,
As if BRITANNIA now were ſunk ſo low,
To beg that PEACE ſhe wonted to beſtow,
Be far that Guilt! be never known that Shame!
That ENGLAND ſhou'd retract her *rightful Claim*,
Or ceaſing to be dreaded and ador'd,
Stain with her Pen the Luſtre of her Sword.
Or doſt thou give the Winds a-far to blow,
Each vexing-Thought, and Heart-devouring Woe,
And fix thy Mind alone on rural Scenes,
To turn the level'd Lawns to liquid Plains,
To raiſe the creeping Rills from humble Beds,
And force the latent Springs to lift their Heads,
On watry Columns, Capitals to rear,
That mix their flowing Curls with upper Air.
Or doſt Thou, weary grown, theſe Works neglect,
No Temples, Statues, Obelisks erect,
But catch the morning Breeze from fragrant Meads,
Or ſhun the Noon-tide Ray in wholſom Shades,

Or

Or ſlowly walk, along the mazy Wood,
To meditate on all that's wiſe and good,
For Nature bountiful, in Thee has join'd,
A Perſon pleaſing with a worthy Mind,
Not given the Form alone, but Means, and Art,
To draw the Eye, or to allure the Heart.
Poor were the Praiſe in Fortune to excel,
Yet want the Way to uſe that Fortune well.
While thus adorn'd, while thus with Virtue crown'd,
At Home, in Peace; Abroad, in Arms renown'd;
Graceful in Form, and winning in Addreſs,
While well you think, what aptly you expreſs,
With Health, with Honour, with a fair Eſtate,
A Table free, and elegantly neat.
What can be added more to mortal Bliſs?
What can he want that ſtands poſſeſt of This?
What can the fondeſt wiſhing Mother more,
Of Heaven attentive for her Son implore?
And yet a *Happineſs* remains *unknown*,
Or to *Philoſophy* reveal'd *alone*;
A *Precept*, which unpractis'd renders vain,
Thy flowing Hopes, and Pleaſure turns to Pain.
Shou'd Hope, and Fear thy Heart alternate tear,
Or Love, or Hate, or Rage, or anxious Care,

Whatever Paſſions may thy Mind infeſt,
(Where is that Mind which Paſſions ne'er moleſt?)
Amidſt the Pangs of ſuch inteſtine Strife,
Still *think the* PRESENT DAY, *the* LAST *of* LIFE;
Defer not till to *Morrow* to be *Wiſe*,
To *Morrow's* SUN, to *Thee* may never *riſe*.
Or ſhou'd to *Morrow* chance to cheer thy *Sight*,
With her enliv'ning and unlookt-for *Light*,
How grateful will appear her *dawning Rays!*
As Favours *unexpected* doubly *pleaſe*.
Who thus can think, and who ſuch Thoughts purſues,
Content may keep his Life, or calmly loſe;
All Proofs of this Thou may'ſt thy ſelf receive,
When Leiſure from Affairs will give thee Leave.
Come, ſee thy Friend, retir'd without Regret,
Forgetting Care, or ſtriving to forget;
In eaſy Contemplation ſoothing Time
With Morals much, and now and then with Rhime,
Not ſo robuſt in Body, as in Mind,
And always undejected, tho' declin'd;
Not wond'ring at the World's new wicked Ways,
Compar'd with thoſe of our Fore-fathers Days,

For

For Virtue now is neither more or leſs,
And Vice is only vary'd in the Dreſs:
Believe it, *Men* have ever been the *ſame*,
And *Ovid*'s GOLDEN AGE, is but a *Dream*.

WILLIAM CONGREVE.

THE TRUE

COPY

OF AN

AFFIDAVIT,

Made before one of His Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace for the City of *Weſtminſter*.

THAT *four* LADIES, whom the Deponent does not care to Name, repair nightly to a certain convenient Place, near St. *James*'s, to meet their GALLANTS of the firſt Rank; whom your Deponent will not Name, but ſo far deſcribe them, that *two* of

of them are *Sallow*, and *two* of the *ruddy* Complexion; and that he verily believes, they were moſt abominably painted.

The LADIES when they begin their Gambols, call their GALLANTS by the fond Nick-names of *Hercules*, *Cupid*, *Pit*, and the *Gardiner*. After a plentiful Service of the moſt coſtly Fare, they begin their *Tricks* which they play like the *Tumblers* in *Bartholomew-Fair* upon a Carpet, *ſtrip is the Word*; nay, your Deponent has known them ſtrip a Gentleman who came accidently into the Houſe. At *firſt*, they begin pretty courtly, at leaſt in their Expreſſions, as, *Madam*, *by your leave*, or ſo; which the LADIES are ſo good as *ſeldom to deny*. Afterwards, it is ſhameful to deſcribe the *Tricks* that are play'd by this *lewd Pack*. By *an eſta-*

bliſhed

bliſhed Rule, each *Lady* has the Choice of her *Gallant* in her *Turn*, and ſome have been known ſo unreaſonable, after they have had *Three*, to call for a *Fourth*. Your Deponent has ſeen a *Lady* on her *Back*, a *Man* o'Top of *her*, and a *Lady* o'Top of *him*; and he avers, it has been known, that a *Court Valet* has *ſtript them all*. Sometimes they are thrown on their *Backs*, ſometimes on their *Bellies* now higgledy piggledy, and anon, they are *all* o'Top of *one another*; and if *any one* is call'd upon, they are oblig'd *to ſhow* ALL. Of the ſame Nature is their Diſcourſe, your Deponent has often over-heard them talking of their *A——es*, with the ſame Familiarity as their *Faces*; *I have a Black* one, ſays one, and named the *Thing* directly; *mine is better than yours*, ſays the other, and

and Names her *Thing*; *muſt I be laught at*, ſays a Third, *becauſe I have a red one*. There is *one monſtrous Thing* that your Deponent is almoſt aſhamed to mention; after *Six*, a *Lady* has asked *if they could do no more*; nay, a certain *Lady* has been known to play all the *Tricks over* by *her ſelf*. Your Deponent likewiſe avers, that he has full Proof, after the LADIES have been tired with their GALLANTS, they have called for *freſh ones*: In ſhort the aforeſaid LADIES, have not only, *ſpent their Pin-Money, but their Husband's Eſtates*, upon *Hercules*, *Cupid*, *Pit*, and the *Gardiner*, and when they want more Money, they commonly *Pawn* their *Jewels*, &c.

Weſtminſter ſſ.
Jurat. Coram me,
T. T.

P. S. The above *Information* is a faithful Deſcription of the GAME of QUADRILLE, not to be *Litterally*, but *Allegorically*, underſtood.

THO. WOOLSTON.

There is now in the Preſs,

MISCELLANEOUS ESSAYS and Familiar Letters. By *William Congreve*, Eſq; To which will be prefix'd, Memoirs of his Life, Writings, and Amours. By *Charles Wilſon*, Eſq;

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